

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4248

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS:

NORWEGIAN-ICELANDIC SEMINAR IN REYKJAVIK

REF: OSLO 0098; USNATO 84

1. MISSION HAD NOT REALIZED FINANCING OF FEB 2-3 ICELANDIC-NORWEGIAN SEMINAR ON SECURITY ISSUES WOULD BE FROM NATO INFORMATION SERVICE. (TO CORRECT TWO INTERPRETATIONS IN REFTELS: (1) SEMINAR IS SPONSORED HERE BY ICELANDIC ATA CHAPTER, VARDBERG, NOT GOI: (2) VERY FEW THINGS OCCUR AT THE "INITIATIVE" OF THE NATIS INFORMATION OFFICER HERE: THIS SEMINAR DEVELOPED FROM DECEMBER VISIT TO NORWAY OF FOUR INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADERS.)

2. FACT OF NATIS FINANCING WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE SOME INITIATIVE IN BRUSSELS, WHICH MISSION URGES, TO ASSURE THAT ICELANDIC INVITEES INCLUDE MORE THAN "TRUE BELIEVERS". VARDBERG'S EXCLUSIVENESS WITH INVITATIONS HAS BEEN A PROBLEM IN THE PAST.

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ALTHOUGH NEW VARDBERG PRESIDENT, MAGNUS ORN ANTONSSON, IS MUCH

MORE ACTIVE, HE REPLIED SATURDAY, WHEN ASKED WHETHER ENTIRE ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE COULD BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, THAT "AT LEAST THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY MEMBERS WILL". SIMILARLY, WHEN MORGUNBLADID POLITICAL EDITOR STYRMIR GUNNARSSON WAS ASKED IN DECEMBER WHETHER INVITEES WOULD INCLUDE UNIVERSITY GROUP OF CULTURAL NORDICISTS WHO RESISTED US VIEWS BUT MIGHT CONCEDE POINTS TO NORWEGIANS SUCH AS HANSEN AND HOLST, DOUBTED THAT VARDBERG "WOULD GO QUITE THAT FAR".

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ANTONSSON THAT NORWEGIAN SIDE HAS SUGGESTED ABOUT 50 ICELANDERS. IF THIS IS THE CASE, INVITEES COULD INCLUDE SEVERAL OF REYKJAVIK'S NON-COMMUNIST NEUTRALISTS AND NORDICISTS, AS WELL AS KEY ALTHING MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF THE FOUR PARTIES AND THEIR YOUTH GROUPS. NORWEGIAN DELEGATION IS SO EXCELLENT (HOLST IS AS HIGHLY REGARDED BY POLITICAL SCIENCE PEOPLE HERE AS HANSEN IS BY OLDER POLITICIANS) THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT SHAME WERE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PERSONAL AND MEDIA EXPOSURE NOT OBTAINED.

4. EMBASSY HERE CAN AND SHOULD DO LITTLE OTHER THAN RAISING GENTLE QUESTIONS. NORWEGIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY PLANS AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIONAL AFFAIR WITH WELL-CHOSEN GUESTS. NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IS AS AWARE AS WE THAT A SERIES OF NATO VISITORS (NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE PRINCIPAL CASE) HAVE RECEIVED LESS THAN OPTIMAL PUBLICITY AND CONTACTS SINCE NON-ICELANDIC INSTITUTIONS MOST IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED AWAITED, UNTIL TOO LATE, ICELANDIC REPRESENTATIONAL AND PUBLICITY INITIATIVES. IRVING

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